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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

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FL. 249

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

FEBRUARY, 1964

Favorable Employment Outlook Continues Into 1964

Employment in January 1964

Highest of Record for That Month— Keeping pace with employment trends which produced ten months of record breaking non-farm employment during 1963, the Montana economy moved into 1964 in the strongest position employment wise in which it has ever been. Preliminary estimates compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with the Montana Unemployment Compensation Commission show that 166,200 non-farm wage earners were on industry payrolls on January 15, 1964. This was the highest January non-farm employment total ever recorded in Montana. It was 2,300 above the number who were on non-farm payrolls in January 1963. It beat the average January employment figure of the past ten years by 8,500 workers.

Five Major Industries Post Employment Gains— Five of the eight basic industries which comprise the Montana non-farm economy had more workers on their payrolls in January 1964 than in January 1963. The biggest increase was in government payrolls, up 1,700 from the January 1963 employment figure. There were 1,200 more workers on state and local government payrolls this January chiefly because of the expansion at educational institutions. There were 500 more workers on payrolls of federal agencies this January than in January, 1963. Other employment comparisons this January with January of 1963 show gains in January 1964 of 300 each in trade and service

industries, 200 in mining, and 100 in finance, insurance, and real estate firms. Manufacturing employment in January 1964, at 21,900, remained identical with the January 1963 employment figure. Construction payrolls had 200 fewer workers this January than in January 1963. January 1964 payrolls of transportation, utility, and communication firms were 100 lighter than in January 1963.

Month-to-Month Changes Seasonal— It is the unchangeable nature of the Montana economy that employment will always show some decline during the winter months. The employment drops during these periods are tied chiefly to weather conditions affecting largely the outdoor industries, and not particularly to any economic factor. These jobs are not lost but are temporarily suspended until the forces of spring again start to beef up the working force.

Monthly Employment Change of 5,000— The monthly employment change from December 1963 to January 1964 was 5,000 workers. This was 4,600 less than the employment difference a year ago when the winter employment decline between December 1962 and January 1963, was 9,600 workers. Cutbacks after the December 1963 holiday upturn caused a normal drop of 2,300 workers in the trade industries during January 1964. Many of the separated workers were housewives and students who work temporarily during the holiday season each year. Construction employment fell sharply this January because of weather con-

ditions. Most highway construction projects were at a standstill. Work forces at two dam sites were trimmed to winter levels. As a result, payrolls of contractors showed 1,700 less workers in January 1964 than in December 1963. Over-the-month employment declines—from December 1963 to January 1964—were less pronounced in other major industry groups. Employment in transportation, communication, and utility firms declined by 400. The service industries were shy 300 workers. Losses of 100 each occurred in manufacturing, mining, and government. January 1964 employment in the finance, insurance, and real estate establishments, at 6,800, remained the same as December 1963 payrolls.

Non-Farm Employment Averaged a Record 174,500 in 1963— Monthly non-farm employment ranged from a low of 163,000 in February 1963 to a peak of 183,300 in June 1963. Adding up the monthly employment for all the twelve months of 1963, the low employment months along with the high employment months, the yearly average of non-farm employment in 1963 produced a total of 174,500 workers. This is a record setting average yearly non-farm employment total in Montana. It shows a gain of 2,800 workers over the 1962 average yearly employment total of 171,700. From the average yearly employment total in 1962 to the average yearly employment total in 1963, employment advanced in four major industry groups, remained the same in three, and showed a slight decline in one.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE					
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit		
	1) Dec. 1963	2) Nov. 1963	Dec. 1962	Dec. 1963	Nov. 1963	Dec. 1962	Dec. 1963	Nov. 1963	Dec. 1962	Dec. 1963	Nov. 1963	Dec. 1962
All Manufacturing	2.3	2.7	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.7	4.1	3.1	4.8	1.3	1.5	1.4
Durable Goods	2.9	3.1	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.0	4.6	3.6	5.7	1.3	1.7	1.7
Primary Metal	1.9	4.8	.7	.5	2.1	.8	4.5	1.4	3.5	.4	.3	.2
Nondurable Goods	2.6	2.0	1.3	2.2	1.8	1.0	3.1	2.1	2.7	1.4	1.1	.7
All Mining	5.9	9.7	5.3	3.4	4.9	2.9	7.2	5.9	4.1	1.9	3.2	2.2
Metal Mining	5.9	8.7	6.2	2.3	3.7	2.1	4.4	4.4	3.7	1.4	2.2	2.2

Along the Hiring Line —

Field Summary January 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(567 jobseekers, 61 new, 441 men, 126 women). Drop in labor market demand reflects cutbacks in smelter employment, down nearly 700 from last year. Decline of 60 noted in railroad employment. Activity in main street establishments shows substantial drop. Practically no farm labor demand. No immediate change seen in current economic conditions.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,387 jobseekers, 783 new, 2,443 men, 944 women). Labor market activity kept on a fairly active schedule during January despite some seasonal letdowns in a few industries. Moderate weather favored building construction and work continued on many projects. Most highway construction shut down until spring and work force at Yellowtail Dam but one-third of last summer's employment total. Main street trends adjusting to normal after holiday season. Mild weather reduced flow of winter sports enthusiasts to Red Lodge, and affected coal mining operations in Roundup.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(607 jobseekers, 270 new, 391 men, 216 women). Job placements declined by 28% from last year with most of the drop in service industries. Labor market forecast for next 30 days has brighter aspects. Work progresses on 11 story college dormitory. New motel and county retirement home near completion. Employment trends at sawmills and other manufacturing firms should keep on fairly steady basis. Farm labor demand picking up.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,411 jobseekers, 314 new, 1,006 men, 405 women). Increased hiring for metal mining operations to meet capacity of new copper concentrator highlighted labor demand during January. Job upswing included 90 heavy truck drivers at open pit mining site. ARA training classes for miners suspended temporarily due to successful recruitment efforts. Idled construction workers accounted for most new unemployment with some leaving for other areas.

CUT BANK—(564 jobseekers, 69 new, 395 men, 109 women). New work applications and unemployment claims 100 above last year due mainly to completed work projects. Main street trend on the slow side. Only 1 oil rig working at present but more activity expected as weather improves. Fifty acre housing project at Browning expected to start this spring. Farm labor demand at low (11).

DILLON—(336 jobseekers, 33 new,

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment	Jan. 1964	Dec. 1963	Jan. 1963	Jan. Avg. 1955-64
Industrial Employment	166,200	171,200	163,900	157,000
New Job Applicants	4,003	3,995	4,766	4,621
Job Applicants, End of Month	17,753	14,251	17,437	17,547

Insured Unemployment Week of	Feb. 7 1964	Jan. 3 1964	Feb. 8 1963	Avg. 1st Feb. Wk. 1960-61
New and Renewal Claims	1,254	1,319	1,336	1,627
Unemployed Weeks Filed	10,690	8,617	11,884	13,634
Total Unemployed Claims	11,944	9,936	13,220	15,311

269 men, 67 women). Labor market trends dominated by seasonal influences. Most heavy construction shut down or working only skeleton crews. Several new businesses opened during the month including a realty office and a tire shop. Demand for trade and service workers at seasonal low. Farm labor demand looking up as calving and lambing season nears.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(396 jobseekers, 50 new, 297 men, 99 women). Labor market activity at seasonal low in most industries. Layoffs noted in cafes, retail stores, service stations, and farm equipment firms. One clothing store closed during the month. Very little demand for construction workers. Farm hiring very slow.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(234 jobseekers, 38 new, 179 men, 55 women). Mild weather during January allowed building construction to continue but work on 4 highway projects suspended until spring. Very little activity in the oil fields. Volume in trade and service units at seasonal low. Farm hiring at very minimum.

Great Falls, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(2,441 jobseekers, 520 new, 1,635 men, 806 women). Employment in area down 3,100 from last year because of completed minuteman missile projects. Labor demand this January relatively light with demand chiefly for clerical workers. Some new hiring noted weekly at the smelter after settlement of a labor dispute. Employment trends in construction not too active but upswing expected next 30 days. Only light farm labor demand.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(429 jobseekers, 121 new, 346 men, 83 women). Jobseeker files heavy with construction and forestry workers as bad weather suspended most outdoor work. Logging and sawmill employment keeps fairly steady with only temporary weather-caused interruptions. Labor demand in trade and service units not too sharp.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlowton—(524 jobseekers, 103 new, 427 men, 97 women). Industry job placements below last month and last year. Farm hiring about half of last year's total due to less demand for livestock feeders. Work on new high school only construction ac-

tivity, with 23 employed. No change in employment picture expected until April.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(770 jobseekers, 198 new, 604 men, 166 women). Employment activity this January pales when compared with last year when the state legislature was in session. Labor demand this January mainly for clerical workers. Employment in construction estimated at 170 compared with 450 last year. Activity in trade and service establishments about average for this winter season.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,740 jobseekers, 249 new, 1,363 men, 377 women). Seasonal layoffs in railroad and trade and service industries accounted for most new unemployment during January. Increased hiring noted at lumber mills. Two large mills plan to add night shifts during February. Construction of additional pot line at Columbia Falls aluminum plant to begin mid-February. Farm labor demand slow.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(536 jobseekers, 77 new, 386 men, 150 women). Industry hiring down from last year due to completion of several major construction projects. Effects are shown in reduced main street business. Smaller building projects only construction work at present. Farm labor demand about the same as last year.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(473 jobseekers, 61 new, 330 men, 143 women). New work applications increased during January as seasonal workers laid off and students registered for part time work. Employment in logging and lumbering fairly stable but with very little new hiring. All construction presently at standstill. Main street labor demand not too active. More railroad layoffs noted throughout the month. Farm labor demand quiet.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(518 jobseekers, 88 new, 421 men, 97 women). Labor market activity holds fairly close to seasonal lines. Construction continued on intermittent schedules throughout the month. Very little hiring in trade and

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	163.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	171.6	176.0	183.3	182.7	182.2	181.6	178.9	174.9	171.2	174.5
1964	166.2*												

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line —

Field Summary January 1

service establishments. Limited hiring on the farm front.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,359 jobseekers, 527 new, 963 men, 396 women). Job placements 25% above January 1963 with general feeling of economic optimism in the community. Good agenda of outdoor work will begin as the weather moderates. Trade, service, and manufacturing industries all show good trends. Farm labor demand below last year.

Polson—(381 jobseekers, 70 new, 292 men, 89 women). Mixed trends noted in the lumber industry. Large inventory forced layoff of 25 plywood mill workers. On the other hand, expansion at 1 large sawmill expected to make 20 additional jobs. A new stud mill expected to operate by April will provide employment for 15 others. Labor demand in trade, service, and agriculture at low ebb.

SHELBY—(252 jobseekers, 52 new, 213 men, 39 women). Mild weather brought some upturn in construction and oil field activity. Trade and service activity appears to be above previous months. Farm hiring slow during January but sheep shearing and tagging to start during February.

SIDNEY—(243 jobseekers, 78 new, 211 men, 32 women). Labor demand during January below normal. Main street business trends not too active since the first of the year. Work on school building only construction project active at present, but good building agenda in sight for spring. End of sugar beet refining on March 12 will release about 300 workers. Farm labor demand slow.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(180 jobseekers, 45 new, 145 men, 35 women). January labor demand not too active. Weather caused temporary shutdown of some logging concerns. Main street business dropped after the holiday season. Shutdown of 2 public works projects idled 40. Construction slow but several projects including highway bridge and power transmission line waiting to start when weather clears.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(465 jobseekers, 76 new, 406 men, 59 women). Labor market trends fairly active for this time of the year. Building construction above last year with current projects of 56 unit housing development, retirement home, and bank building in addition to residential building and re-modeling. Little change noted in oil field activity. Only slight farm labor demand.

All employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period Jan. 1962 to date, will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 855 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,256 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Jan. 1964 (2)	Dec. 1963 (3)	Jan. 1963	Dec. '63 to Jan. '64	Jan. '63 Against Jan. '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	166,200	171,200	163,900	-5,000	2,300
Manufacturing	21,900	22,000	21,900	- 100	00
Durable goods	13,200	13,300	14,600	- 100	-1,400
Lumber and timber products	8,700	8,700	7,900	00	800
Primary metals	3,100	3,100	3,200	00	- 100
Other (4)	1,400	1,500	3,500	- 100	-2,100
Nondurable goods	8,700	8,700	7,300	00	1,400
Food and kindred products	5,100	5,200	4,000	- 100	1,100
Printing and publishing	1,700	1,700	1,600	00	100
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,100	1,100	100	100
Other (5)	700	700	600	00	100
Mining	7,100	7,200	6,900	- 100	200
Metal mining	4,300	4,300	4,100	00	200
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	900	900	800	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,900	2,000	2,000	- 100	- 100
Contract Construction	8,700	10,400	8,900	-1,700	- 200
Contractors, building construction	2,600	2,800	2,800	- 200	- 200
Contractors, other than building	2,100	3,000	2,100	- 900	00
Contractors, special trade	4,000	4,600	4,000	- 600	00
Transportation and utilities	16,900	17,300	17,000	- 400	- 100
Interstate railroads	7,500	7,700	7,600	- 200	- 100
Transportation except railroads	3,800	3,900	3,600	- 100	200
Utilities including communication	5,600	5,700	5,800	- 100	- 200
Trade	38,500	40,800	38,200	-2,300	300
Wholesale trade	8,500	8,600	8,300	- 100	200
Retail trade	30,000	32,200	29,900	-2,200	100
General merchandise and apparel	5,900	7,000	5,800	-1,100	100
Food stores	4,600	4,700	4,900	- 100	- 300
Eating and drinking establishments	7,200	7,800	6,900	- 600	300
Automotive and filling stations	6,300	6,500	6,400	- 200	- 100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,000	6,200	5,900	- 200	100
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,800	6,700	00	100
Services and miscellaneous	23,200	23,500	22,900	- 300	300
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,100	3,200	2,600	- 100	500
Personal services	2,000	2,100	2,000	- 100	00
Other (6)	18,100	18,200	18,300	- 100	- 200
Government	43,100	43,200	41,400	- 100	1,700
Federal	11,300	11,600	10,800	- 300	500
State and local	31,800	31,600	30,600	- 200	1,200
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	21,300	21,700	24,400	- 400	-3,100
Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	5,200	00	-2,100
Contract construction	1,500	1,700	2,700	- 200	-1,200
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,600	5,700	5,600	- 100	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,600	3,700	3,500	- 100	100
Government	4,100	4,100	4,000	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	22,500	23,000	21,800	- 500	700
Manufacturing	2,800	2,800	2,400	00	400
Contract construction	1,100	1,300	1,100	- 200	00
Transportation and utilities	2,400	2,500	2,400	- 100	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,100	7,300	7,000	- 200	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,100	4,100	4,000	00	100
Government	3,700	3,700	3,600	00	100

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY 1964 AND JANUARY 1963

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement						UI Claims*		
	Jan. 1964		Jan. 1963		Jan. 1964		Jan. 1963		Jan. 1964			Jan. 1963			Wk 2-7		
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	
Anaconda	61	12	85	18	567	123	418	64	25	1	26	5	36	7	43	4	434 358
Billings	783	169	978	222	3,387	844	3,208	807	309	56	365	117	366	72	438	120	1,899 2,405
Bozeman	270	32	242	48	607	101	611	125	96	29	125	21	134	16	150	31	316 427
Butte	314	68	293	65	1,411	339	1,028	228	93	8	101	26	123		123	20	825 791
Cut Bank	89	27	84	20	504	182	411	134	17	3	20	6	25	3	28	4	333 289
Dillon	83	23	131	41	336	86	310	87	21	43	64	34	30	35	65	33	189 218
Glasgow	50	10	105	23	396	75	474	80	26	4	30	6	37	1	38	8	340 396
Glendive	88	16	73	15	234	56	412	49	23	4	27	3	44	6	50	9	177 160
Great Falls	520	104	695	149	2,441	647	2,342	672	174	27	201	39	295	15	310	69	1,762 1,640
Hamilton	121	22	111	24	429	77	467	115	27	12	39	12	26	7	33	5	318 346
Havre	103	17	136	23	524	136	479	135	41	6	47	8	62	14	76	18	410 358
Helena	198	40	248	63	770	232	1,209	369	66	17	83	16	186	8	194	29	699 875
Kalispell	249	38	323	64	1,740	442	1,506	431	94	3	97	27	52		52	11	1,196 1,462
Lewistown	77	11	137	22	536	131	519	222	16	20	36	14	43	21	64	17	336 401
Livingston	61	4	98	23	473	95	482	98	24	4	28	4	63	3	66	37	387 437
Miles City	88	9	118	14	518	95	425	111	28	6	34	16	41	15	56	24	371 347
Missoula	527	68	561	109	1,359	324	1,557	362	202	8	210	29	155	21	176	53	921 1,135
Polson	70	13	82	15	381	105	418	123	10	1	11	1	16		16	6	300 341
Shelby	52	6	85	19	252	63	330	90	29	3	32	4	36		36	13	174 253
Sidney	78	12	62	8	243	37	195	45	20	6	26	6	26	6	32	6	122 126
Thompson Falls	45	8	75	16	180	40	249	67	21		21	3	27		27	5	148 172
Wolf Point	76	12	44	12	465	92	387	96	18	3	21	3	12		12	3	287 281
TOTALS	4,003	721	4,766	1,013	17,753	4,322	17,437	4,510	1,380	264	1,644	400	1,835	250	2,085	525	11,944 13,220

*Includes 1,486 claims of the Fed. UC Program 1,023 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. (1) 1964	Dec. (2) 1963	Jan. 1963	Jan. (1) 1964	Dec. (2) 1963	Jan. 1963	Jan. (1) 1964	Dec. (2) 1963	Jan. 1963
All Manufacturing	\$105.34	\$104.68	\$107.33	39.6	39.5	39.9	2.66	2.65	2.69
Durable Goods	102.82	103.60	105.34	39.7	40.0	39.9	2.59	2.59	2.64
Primary Metals	105.72	105.72	102.70	39.3	39.3	39.5	2.69	2.69	2.60
Nondurable Goods	107.31	106.81	111.16	38.6	38.7	39.7	2.78	2.76	2.80
Food and Kindred Products	94.77	89.35	95.04	39.0	37.7	41.5	2.43	2.37	2.29
All Mining	117.96	118.37	110.30	41.1	41.1	40.7	2.87	2.88	2.71
Metal Mining	114.26	115.44	106.54	39.4	39.4	38.6	2.90	2.93	2.76
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	115.79	105.57	103.22	41.8	39.1	39.7	2.77	2.70	2.60

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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